

DHAKA PREMIER LEAGUE
Time: 9:00am
Gazi Group v Khelaghar SKS
Venue: KSOAS

Prime Bank v Brothers Union
Venue: BKSP-3
Kalabagan KC v Sheikh Jamal
Venue: BKSP-4

FEDERATION CUP
Team BJMC v Rahamatganj MFS
Time: 4:30pm
Saif Sporting v Muktiyodha Sangsod

Time: 6:45pm
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Real, Barca set up final day showdown

AFP, Madrid



The fight for the La Liga title will go down to the last day of the season after Real Madrid and Barcelona beat Sevilla and Las Palmas respectively on Sunday to remain locked together on 87 points.

Madrid remain in the driving seat after the European champions saw off Sevilla 4-1 as they have two games remaining to Barca's one.

However, Barca remain on top thanks to their better head-to-head record, with Neymar scoring a hatrick as they also won 4-1 in the Canary Islands.

Madrid visit Celta in their game in hand on Wednesday and then travel to Malaga, whilst Barca host Eibar on the final day next Sunday.

Sevilla's defeat also guarantees they will finish fourth and Atletico Madrid, who drew 1-1 at Real Betis, qualify automatically for next season's Champions League in third.

Sporting Gijon joined Granada and Osasuna in being relegated despite winning 1-0 at Eibar as Deportivo la Coruna secured safety in a 0-0 draw at Villarreal.

Sevilla have now won just three of their last 13 games as their season has petered out to a disappointing end.

However, they gave Madrid more than a few scares at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Nacho gave the hosts the lead in controversial fashion as he curled home a quick free-kick with the Sevilla defence caught unaware and their protests towards referee Alberto Undiano Mallenco falling on deaf ears.

That goal meant Madrid broke Bayern Munich's European record for scoring in consecutive games as their streak now stretches to 61 games.

Sevilla fired their first warning shot when Stefan Jovetic smashed a shot against the post from the edge of the area.

However, moments later it was 2-0 as Sergio Rico could only palm James Rodriguez's effort into the path of Cristiano Ronaldo to score his 400th Madrid goal.

Sevilla finally got back in the game through Jovetic's neat finish from outside the box three minutes into the second-half.

Yet, just as the hosts' nerves were becoming frayed, Ronaldo appeared once more by crashing home Toni Kroos's cut-back. And Kroos rounded off the scoring himself by prodding into the far corner six minutes from time.



Chittagong Abahani's Nigerian striker Afeez Oladipo (C) opened the scoring as the port city outfit won their Federation Cup opener against Mohammedan at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Winning starts for Sheikh Jamal and Ctg Abahani

SPORTS REPORTER



New powerhouse Chittagong Abahani and former champions Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club

made winning starts in their respective groups in the Walton Federation Cup yesterday.

Chittagong Abahani impressed in their 2-1 win over Mohammedan in the first match of Group C after a rebuilding Sheikh Jamal breezed past Farashganj SC 3-0 in their Group B opener at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

The battle between Chittagong Abahani and Mohammedan started gingerly, with neither side dominating in the opening half hour. But a 36th minute strike from Chittagong Abahani's Afeez Oladipo seemed to breathe some life into the contest. The Nigerian, who joined the port city outfit from Nepal's Manang Marshyangdi this season, found space between two defenders on a through-ball from a

teammate and picked his target with an expert attempt from the edge of the box.

That goal brought out an immediate response from Mohammedan. Even though Syed Nayeemuddin's charges failed to get the equaliser, they threatened a few times with a number of long-

SK JAMAL BAH 11', ABSAR 57', SWEET 90'	3 - 0 FARASHGANJ
CTG ABAHANI OLADIPO 36', KAUSHIK 56'	2 - 1 MOHAMMEDAN TOKLISH 74'

range attempts before the end of the half.

However, it was Saiful Bari Titu's big-spending outfit from Chittagong who grabbed the match by the scruff of the neck when midfielder Kaushik Barua skilfully finished a solo move with a fine effort in the 56th minute, finding the corner of the net with a well-placed shot past Mohammedan goalkeeper Rasel Mahmud Liton.

Mohammedan, who enjoyed the lion's share of possession since that second goal, got a lifeline when substi-

tute forward Toklish Ahmed stabbed home a back-heel from Nkowcha Kingsley in the 74th minute. The Black and Whites mounted a late challenge in search of an equaliser, but Chittagong Abahani's defence held firm for a crucial opening victory.

The first match of the day was, however, devoid of such competition as Sheikh Jamal hardly broke a sweat to beat perennial strugglers Farashganj.

The three-time champions, being guided by Joseph Afusi, found an early lead before adding two more in the second half. Gambian recruit Mamodou Bah scored from the spot in the 11th minute after he was brought down inside the box by Farashganj defender Malick Mendy.

Young forward Nurul Absar doubled the margin on 57 minutes, poking home a rebound after his initial effort came off the side post while Anisur Rahman Sweet wrapped up the victory with a dipping shot from outside the left corner of the box, beating the Farashganj goalkeeper completely with flight.



Superstar Neymar scored his first hatrick of the season for Barcelona in their La Liga clash against Las Palmas. However, Real Madrid's win against Sevilla ensures that the teams stay tied on points with Los Blancos having a game in hand.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Spurs, L'pool get big wins

AFP, London

Liverpool are on the brink of qualifying for the Champions League after Philippe Coutinho inspired a 4-0 rout of West Ham, while Tottenham paid a fitting farewell to White Hart Lane with a 2-1 win over Manchester United on Sunday.

In contrast to Liverpool's jubilation and Tottenham's celebratory send-off, there was only misery for Hull as they were relegated after a 4-0 thrashing at Crystal Palace. At the London Stadium, Liverpool took the lead when Coutinho's sublime pass was converted by Daniel Sturridge early in the first half.

Coutinho stole the spotlight again in the second half with a superb solo strike before Divock Origi netted to cap the display.

Playing their last game at White Hart Lane after 118 years, second placed Tottenham responded to the end of their title dreams by bringing down the curtain on 118 years at the famous north London stadium.

Kenya midfielder Victor Wanyama put the hosts ahead in the sixth minute and Harry Kane doubled Tottenham's lead in the 48th minute with his 28th goal of the season.

Hagi leads own side to first title

AGENCIES, Bucharest



Romanian legend Gheorghe Hagi coached FC Viitorul Constanta to a historic first league title just eight years after the 52-year-old founded the club.

A 1-0 win over traditional heavyweights FC Cluj saw the club, popularly known Puṡtii lui Hagi (Hagi's Kids), confirmed as Liga I champions.

Hagi, nicknamed 'The Maradona of the Carpathians' during his playing days, is currently owner, chairman and manager of the Viitorul.

However, FCSB -- formerly Steaua Bucharest -- confirmed that they will appeal the decision as the two sides finished level on 44 points, despite the Romanian football governing body's official website confirming Viitorul were Liga 1 champions of virtue of a better head-to-head record during the play-off phase of the season.

Steaua owner Gigi Becali however claims that a better record during the initial phase of the season means the league should rightfully be theirs.

Hagi, who founded Viitorul in 2009 following an acrimonious departure from Steaua, insisted his former side were just bitter at finishing second.

"Even though we know some are upset, we are happy. The big must behave like big men. They must know how to lose," Hagi said.

Hagi starred for Romania at three World Cups and played for Real Madrid and Barcelona, but despite his success as a player the achievement of winning the title with Viitorul -- whose name means 'Future' -- is not lost on Hagi.

And what makes it even more special is that the team was formed predominantly from players who graduated from the academy -- and just one non-Romanian player in theirsquad.

"I'm proud, happy, because this academy and this great team, these children, have fought with their last ounce of energy and achieved the impossible. We're the youngest champions in Europe," Hagi continued.

"Now this city has entered the history of Romanian football. I've been investing in young people and that's one of my greatest qualities. I'm happy now that I did the right thing."



Hamilton wins Spanish GP

AFP, Montmelo

Lewis Hamilton roared back into serious contention for a fourth drivers' world title on Sunday when he drove to a well-judged victory for Mercedes in a dramatic Spanish Grand Prix.

The three-time champion recovered after losing the lead from his 64th pole position to make the most of key strategic decisions and win with power and precision ahead of championship leader Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari and Australia's Daniel Ricciardo, who was third.

Hamilton finished the 66-lap contest 3.5 seconds ahead of the four-time champion German, having blasted past him to regain the lead after 44 laps.

It was his second win in five races this year and the 55th of his career and it brought him within six points of Vettel in the title race. The German now has 104 points and Hamilton has 98.

"That is how racing should be," Hamilton said. "Seb was really fast! My start was not good enough -- I got a bit of wheel-spin and I will have to talk to my guys about that, but the team did a great job this weekend."

"At turn one, when we made contact, I just felt like I ran out of road and I was on the outside...but that is racing, and I wouldn't have changed it for the world."

After being edged into second place, Vettel said: "I was pushing. I had a really good start. Lewis and myself picked up wheel-spin straight away."

Nadal battles to 5th Madrid title

AFP, Madrid



Rafael Nadal's flawless record on clay this season continued as he outgunned the impressive Dominic Thiem to win the Madrid Masters for a fifth time 7-6 (10/8), 6-4 on Sunday.

The Spaniard is now 15-0 on his favoured surface this year having also picked up his 10th titles in Monte Carlo and Barcelona in recent weeks.

And the 14-time Grand Slam champion is now strong favourite to add a 10th French Open crown next month as he romped to victory on home soil for the loss of just one set all week.

Victory also moves Nadal above Roger Federer to fourth in the world rankings. "To play here and win here means a lot to me," said Nadal. "I am always very nervous and emotional to play a final in Madrid."

Thiem also fell victim to Nadal's supreme form in the final in Barcelona two weeks ago, but there was little for the 23-year-old to be dispirited about as he pushed Nadal all the way in his first Masters series final.

Nadal disposed of Novak Djokovic for his first win over the Serb for three years on Saturday and victory saw him level Djokovic's record of 30 Masters Series titles.

Thiem didn't finish his semi-final against Uruguayan Pablo Cuevas until after midnight on Sunday morning.

However, that lack of recovery time didn't show as Thiem struck the first blow by breaking the Nadal serve to move into a 3-1 first set lead.

Thiem handed the break back by netting a simple volley for 3-3, but showed admirable resistance to battle back from 0-40 when serving to stay in the set a 4-5 to force a tie-break.

Eventually it was Nadal who prevailed with his fifth set point when Thiem fired long.



Rafael Nadal battled to a 7-6 (10/8), 6-4 win over an almost unrelenting Dominic Thiem to clinch his fifth Madrid Masters title yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

Feyenoord win Eredivisie

Feyenoord won the Dutch league title for the first time in 18 years after veteran striker Dirk Kuyt scored a hatrick in a 3-1 home win over Heracles Almelo that left them one-point clear of arch rivals Ajax Amsterdam.



Champions Trophy winners to get USD 2.2m

The upcoming ICC Champions Trophy in



England and Wales from 1-18 June carries a total prize money of 4.5 dollars million -- an increase of 500,000 dollars from the last tournament -- with the winner of the eight-team tournament taking home a cheque of 2.2 million dollars. The runners-up will be given 1.1 million dollars.

Benfica win fourth successive Portuguese title

Benfica won the Portuguese league in style, thrashing Vitoria Guimaraes 5-0 to clinch the title for the fourth season in a row.



Zabaleta to leave Manchester City

Argentine international Pablo Zabaleta will leave Manchester City at the end of the season, the Premier League club announced.



WTA condemn organisers for Nastase presence

The head of women's tennis has condemned Madrid Open organisers for allowing controversial Romanian Fed Cup captain Ilie Nastase to take part in the trophy presentation ceremony following Saturday's final.

